

DOZUKI

Selecting DIY Camera Equipment

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SUMMARY

High quality photographs will make your how-to guides stand out and will enable your readers to follow procedures more easily. This guide will walk you through picking out the right camera equipment to create high quality guide images with a basic point-and-shoot camera.

Step 1 — Selecting the Right Camera



- The most important piece of hardware when taking photographs is, of course, the camera. Any point-and-shoot camera with at least 6 megapixels will capture images with sufficient resolution.

Step 2 — Choosing the Right Settings

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Step 3 — Picking Out a Tripod



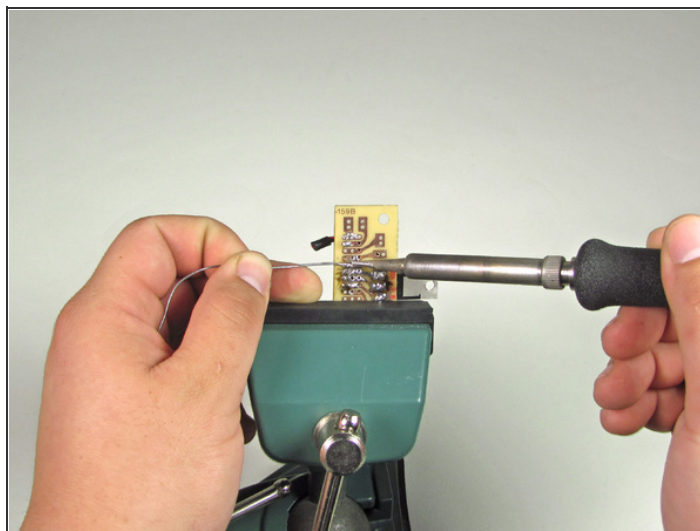
- Every hand-held camera is prone to shakes and vibrations that cause blurry photos. Keep your images sharp by using a tripod.
- Selecting the right tripod ultimately boils down to how you plan to use your camera.
 - Most of the tripod's height should come from its legs, rather than the center column. Raising the center column makes the tripod less sturdy and should only be used for quick, temporary height adjustments.
 - If all of your photos are going to be shot with the camera sitting perfectly horizontal, then a standard 3-way panning head is more than adequate. If your photography requires funky angles, though, look into a ball head-type tripod.
 - Make sure that your tripod is rated to hold however much weight you're going to be mounting on top of it.
 - The weight of the tripod itself may be a factor if your work requires you to move around a lot or trek through the great outdoors. You may find that a tripod made with lightweight materials, such as carbon fiber, best suits your needs.

Step 4 — Capturing Sharp Images



- When it comes to cameras, even the slightest nudge can take a perfect composition and turn it into a blurry mess. Even pressing the shutter button can cause the camera to shake. Use a remote shutter release or your camera's self-timer to keep yourself from jostling the equipment.
- Timer functions are also useful when you are working alone and need both of your hands in the shot.

Step 5



- Even with inexpensive equipment, you can take high quality photographs that will make your guides stand out.
- The soldering picture here was taken with the camera setup shown. All of the hardware together costs less than \$200, and the resulting images look great!

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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